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Gordie News, December 2007

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

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GORDIE NEWS

(December 2007) 1:12

Erika Szonntag, editor

Gordon Natural Area for Environmental Studies

West Chester University of Pennsylvania

(A Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation)



Special Announcements & Dates-

January 29, 2008 – Sustainability across the Campus Green Festival

February 20, 2008 – Speaker Richard Louv on “Nature Deficit Disorder”

Next Workday: April 28, 2008 – Great Garlic Mustard Pull #2

Help save postage: If you have an E-mail we can add you to the Friends of the Gordon Natural Area mailing list. You will be notified of the latest Gordie

News (<http://darwin.wcupa.edu/gordon/>) and other activities

**Contact Erika Szonntag with feedback or ideas for articles at
es631042@wcupa.edu**

:: What's New? ::

The Father of the Gordon Natural Area passes away

On Friday, November 30, 20007, Dr. William R. Overlease passed away at Midland House in Indianapolis, Indiana. From 1963 to 1986, Dr. Overlease was a professor of ecology and field biology at West Chester University, and was honored as a professor emeritus later in his career.

Dr. Overlease was born on October 2, 1925 in Elkhart, Indiana. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 and fought in the Pacific Theater. Afterwards, he attended Michigan State University and earned a bachelor of science degree in forestry in 1950, a master of science in conservation in 1952 and a doctorate in botany and plant pathology in 1964.

Dr. Overlease met his wife, Edith, of 52 years while working as a naturalist in the Indiana state parks over several years. He taught ecology and field biology from 1963 to 1986 at WCU. Here he was perhaps most recognized for his success in formally establishing the Gordon Natural Area as such in December 1973 after much deliberation with the Board of Trustees. He had been working to preserve the area since 1963. Dr Overlease installed a set of plant monitoring plots at the corner of New St and Tigie Rd in 1969 and every year for 35 years monitored the coming and going of all plant species. Dr Hertel will work with Edith to get those data published.

Dr. Overlease was passionate about wildlife and authored many publications, the most recent being “100 Years of Change in the Distribution of Common Indiana Weeds” (2007) which he coauthored with Edith.

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January 29, 2008

1pm-6:30pm

Sustainability across the Campus Green Festival

The Green Festival is a *fun* and *free* student-organized event and its mission is to provide WCU students with a fun way to access information about local environmental issues, including:

On-Campus Environmental Groups
Local Sustainability Efforts
Local “Green” Businesses

The Green Festival will feature musical guests Gillian Grassie and Cheers Elephant.
The event is intended to increase student involvement in and awareness of local environmental concerns

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***Last Child in the Woods* – Richard Louv’s take on Nature Deficit Disorder**

On February 20, 2008, Richard Louv will be speaking about Nature Deficit Disorder at WCU. He is the author of *Last Child in the Woods*, which focuses on the disorder. Within recent years, children’s connection to nature has dwindled, raising concern about their development and interest in environmental issues.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4665933>

Contact: Jackie Hodes; jhodes@wcupa.edu (610-436-3147)

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:: Check out these Websites ::



The Green Life – Brought to you by the Sierra Club

<http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/>

The Green Life is an easy to navigate, cut to the chase, colorful online newsletter chock-full of green tips & tricks, recipes, and updates in categories like art, business, entertainment, technology, travel, health, science, and much more. If you choose to sign up for their email newsletter, you will receive a new green tip everyday; of course you can just log on to the website to read up.

EnviroFest 2008

www.greenvalleys.org

On May 3, 2008, the Green Valleys Association (GVA) is hosting EnviroFest. There will be a large expo area with information about renewable energy, environmentally friendly products, gardening with native and organic vegetation. There will also be hands-on activities for kids and a 5K run, a fun run, and scenic walks. The GVA is located about 30 minutes north of Exton, just beyond Ludwig's Corner on route 100. Visit their website for more information and directions.



The Game of (Sustainable) Life

<http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences/>

So you think that you're living a sustainable life? Think again. Consumer Consequences is an online game in which players choose a neighborhood and design a character with which to play. Your score is based on your answers to questions about your personal lifestyle – fuel usage, recycling habits, etc – and determine how many “earths” would be needed to sustain 6.6 billion people who live like you. I thought I was an environmentally conscious person, but it would take 3.5 earths to support 6.6 billion people who live like me! It's a fun, worthwhile and eye-opening way to spend 15 minutes.

Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center

<http://www.forestthreats.org/>

<http://threatsummary.forestthreats.org/browse.cfm?stateSearch=PA>

Curious about what is affecting forest ecosystems the most today? The EFETAC is dedicated to identifying old and new threats to forests and researches the effects of invasive plants, insects, climate change, and diseases on these ecosystems. A new “summary threat” tool is available on the homepage where users can search for information via threat or state.



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Brandywine Valley Association Teacher of the Year Congratulations to Mr. Dan Lammey

“Dan Lammey, a Henderson High School biology teacher, has been named Teacher of the Year by the Brandywine Valley Association (BVA). The BVA is the oldest small watershed organization in the country; its mission is to promote the restoration, preservation, conservation, and enjoyment of the natural resources of the Brandywine Valley watershed through education programs, environmental studies and projects, and technological advocacy.

Publicly recognized at the Association’s annual meeting in October, Lammey earned this honor for his tireless work in integrating real world environmental issues into the science curriculum. He is directly responsible for creating the Brandywine Flows Program, and the Environmental Club at Henderson High School.” Mr. Lammey is a friend of the GNA and brings classes to visit. Congratulations!

Dr Gerry Hertel appointed to the International Review Panel for the African Journal of Ecology

Congratulations to Dr. Hertel for being nominated as an International Review Panelist for the African Journal of Ecology, a publication associated with the East African Wildlife Society. The journal focuses on the ecology and conservation of African wildlife. Since 1999, Dr Hertel has been doing forest health monitoring and African violet habitat research in the Eastern Arc Mountains of Kenya and Tanzania.

<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/journal.asp?ref=0141-6707&site=1>

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Environmental Victories

Here are some of the year's top environmental triumphs, courtesy of www.environmentaldefense.org.
Visit the homepage to read up on what other positive impacts have been made in 2007 to protect the environment.

- ☐ The American bald eagle has officially recovered its numbers and is being removed from the threatened and endangered species list.
- ☐ New York City has cleaned up 2300 school buses by reducing "soot" pollution by 20 to 30 percent, helping the city move closer to its goal of being the greenest city in the U.S.
- ☐ Hawaii, New Jersey, and Florida have jumped on the bandwagon, alongside California, to enact stricter "statewide global warming pollution limits."
- ☐ Significant progress was made with Congress approving of wetlands restoration projects, including a couple in two Lake Erie sub-watersheds.
- ☐ North Carolina has passed the Swine Farm Environmental Performance Standards Act which sets stringent "health and environmental standards for new [and established] waste management systems on hog farms."
- ☐ The Northeast Ecological Corridor (NEC) of Puerto Rico was spared being the site of two resorts thanks to activists and a coalition of environmental groups. As a result, 40 endangered species, like the leatherback sea turtle, subtropical rainforests, and coral reefs will remain unharmed.

Billion Tree Campaign

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has launched a campaign to plant trees all over the world. The Gordon Natural Area has pledged 100 trees thus far. World target-pledged-planted/the Gordon Natural Area

Target



2,700,000,000/100

Pledged

1,779,618,268/100

Planted

1,369,951,893/64

Visit <http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/>

<http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/photoGallery/indexNorthAmerica.asp>

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GNA Supporters:

2004: Presidential Initiative (WCU); Environmental Council (WCU); USDA Forest Service; Henderson High School Environmental Club; Friends of the Gordon Area

2005: Wegman's; Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery; Environmental Council; Henderson High School Environmental Club; Friends of the Gordon Area

2006: Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery; Valero Energy Corporation; National Wildlife Federation; Henderson High School Environmental Club; Friends of the Gordon Area

2007: Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources; WCU Alumni Association; Darlington Biological Society; MENTA Café; Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery

Contact: ghertel@wcupa.edu; 610-436-2722; 484-883-3371

NO TRAIL BIKES ARE ALLOWED IN THE GNA – They have increased the length of trails by 300% and are impacting the biodiversity in the GNA.

DOGS NEED TO BE LEASHED – Students doing laboratory assignments have been attacked by unleashed dogs.



WCU Public Safety: 610-436-3311